

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2168A

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A fluid absorbent mat having a single fabric layer defining the upper exterior of the mat and a rubber backing bonded to single the fabric layer, wherein the single fabric layer ~~includes~~ consists essentially of a knitted polyester fabric wherein the single fabric layer is adapted to retain fluid therein.
2. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the fabric layer ~~includes a microknitted~~ is knitted polyester fabric including microdenier yarns comprising filaments less than 1.1 denier.
3. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fabric layer includes~~ knitted polyester fabric is a warp-knitted plush polyester fabric.
4. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 4 ~~3~~, wherein the fabric includes a pile yarn and a ground yarn.
5. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 4, wherein the pile yarn is a micro-denier yarn comprising filaments of less than or equal to 1.1 denier.
6. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 4, wherein the ground yarn is a monofilament of no less than 10 denier, ~~or a multi-filament yarn.~~

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fabric layer has~~
single fabric layer has an upper surface, wherein said upper surface is a sanded
surface.

9. (Original): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the fabric is chemically treated to
render it hydrophilic.

10. (Original): The mat according to claim 9, wherein the fabric is chemically
treated with an anionic-ethoxylated sulfonated polyester and a high molecular weight
ethoxylated polyester.

11. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the single
fabric layer has a textured surface that includes raised and/or recessed surface
formations.

12. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 11, wherein the surface
formations ~~have an average height of~~ define a plurality of raised portions and
depressed portions disposed in cooperating relation across the mat such that fluid may
be collected at said depressed portions, and wherein the average difference in height
b tween the raised portions and the depressed portions is about 0.1-2.0mm, preferably
0.2-0.5mm.

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13. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 11, wherein the individual surface formations have an average surface area of $0.2-100\text{mm}^2$, ~~preferably $1.0-20\text{mm}^2$.~~

14. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 11, wherein the surface formations are randomly distributed over substantially the whole of the single fabric layer.

15. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 11, wherein the surface formations are formed by underlying raised and/or recessed surfaces on the face of the rubber backing that is bonded to the single fabric layer.

16. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric layer is printed.

17. (Original): The mat according to claim 16, wherein the mat has printed borders.

18. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric layer covers substantially the whole of one face of the rubber backing.

19. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 18, wherein the single fabric layer has cut edges.

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20. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the rubber backing has a thickness of 0.5-5mm, ~~preferably 1-3mm.~~

21. (Original): The mat according to claim 1, the mat being suitable for use as a drip mat.

22. (Currently Amended) A fluid absorbent mat having a single fabric layer defining the upper exterior of the mat and a rubber backing bonded to the single fabric layer, wherein the single fabric layer is chemically treated to render it hydrophilic such that fluid is retained therein.

23. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the single fabric layer has a textured surface.

24. (Original): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the mat has an absorbency of at least 15ml before overflow for a 10cm x 10cm sample.

25. (Original): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the mat has a liquid retention after draining of less than 5ml for a 10cm x 10cm sample.

26. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the single fabric layer has a pile surface that provides for sharp definition printing.

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27. (Original): A mat according to claim 26, wherein the pile surface has substantially instantaneous moisture dissipation.

Claim 28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim ~~28~~ 22, wherein said mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.

Claims 30-50 (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 16, wherein the single fabric layer is printed by at least one of heat transfer printing, digital printing, ink-jet printing, electrostatic printing, and screen printing.

52. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric layer is dyed.

53. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the single fabric layer is printed by at least one of heat transfer printing, digital printing, ink-jet printing, electrostatic printing, and screen printing.

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54. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 22, wherein the single fabric layer is dyed.

Claims 55 - 56 (Canceled)

57. (Original): The mat according to claim 29, wherein the floor mat is an advertising floor mat.

58. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 57, wherein the single fabric layer is printed by at least one of heat transfer printing, digital printing, ink-jet printing, electrostatic printing, and screen printing.

59. (Currently Amended): The mat according to claim 57, wherein the single fabric layer is dyed.

Claims 60 - 69 (Canceled)

70. (Original): The mat according to claim 1, wherein the mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.

71. (Original): The mat according to claim 70, wherein the mat is an advertising floor mat.

72. (Original): A mat according to claim 22, wherein the mat is at least one of a drip mat, poster mat, floor mat, place mat, coaster, stair riser, carpet tile, and taxi mat.